

OUR SCHOOL

Madhuri Purandare



JYOTSNA PRAKASHAN

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Original Text and Illustrations

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How my little one
is going to grow up
fast and go to
school one day!
Right?



JYOTSNA PRAKASHAN



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The grown-ups are always telling us about school,
even when we are babies.

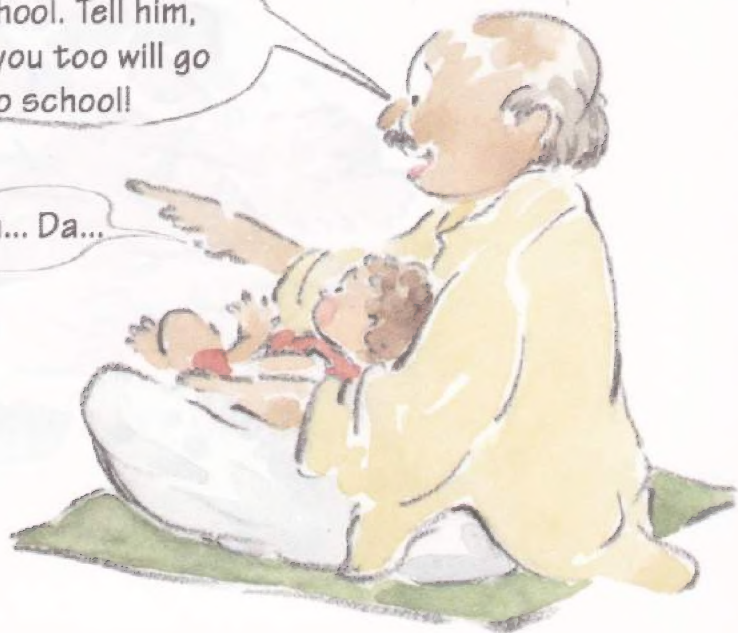
Now my little one
is going to grow up
fast and go to
school one day!
Right?





See, Dada is going to school. Tell him, soon, you too will go to school!

Da... Da...



Then one day we too feel like going to school.



And then one day....

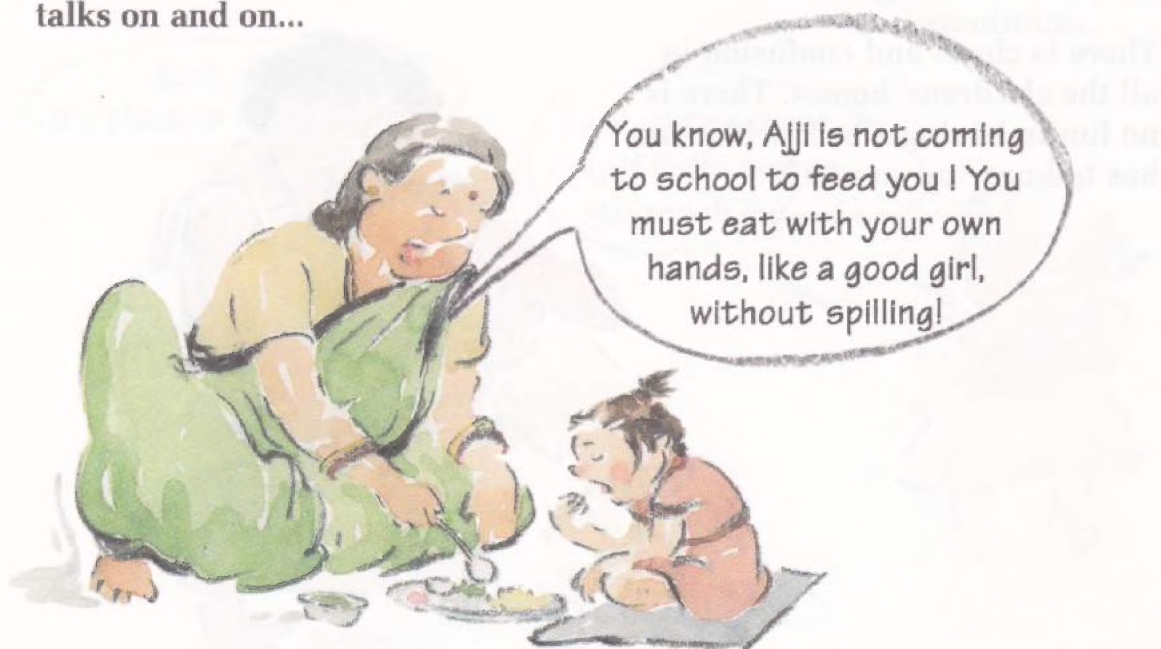


Nikhil's Baba
takes Nikhil
to the market.

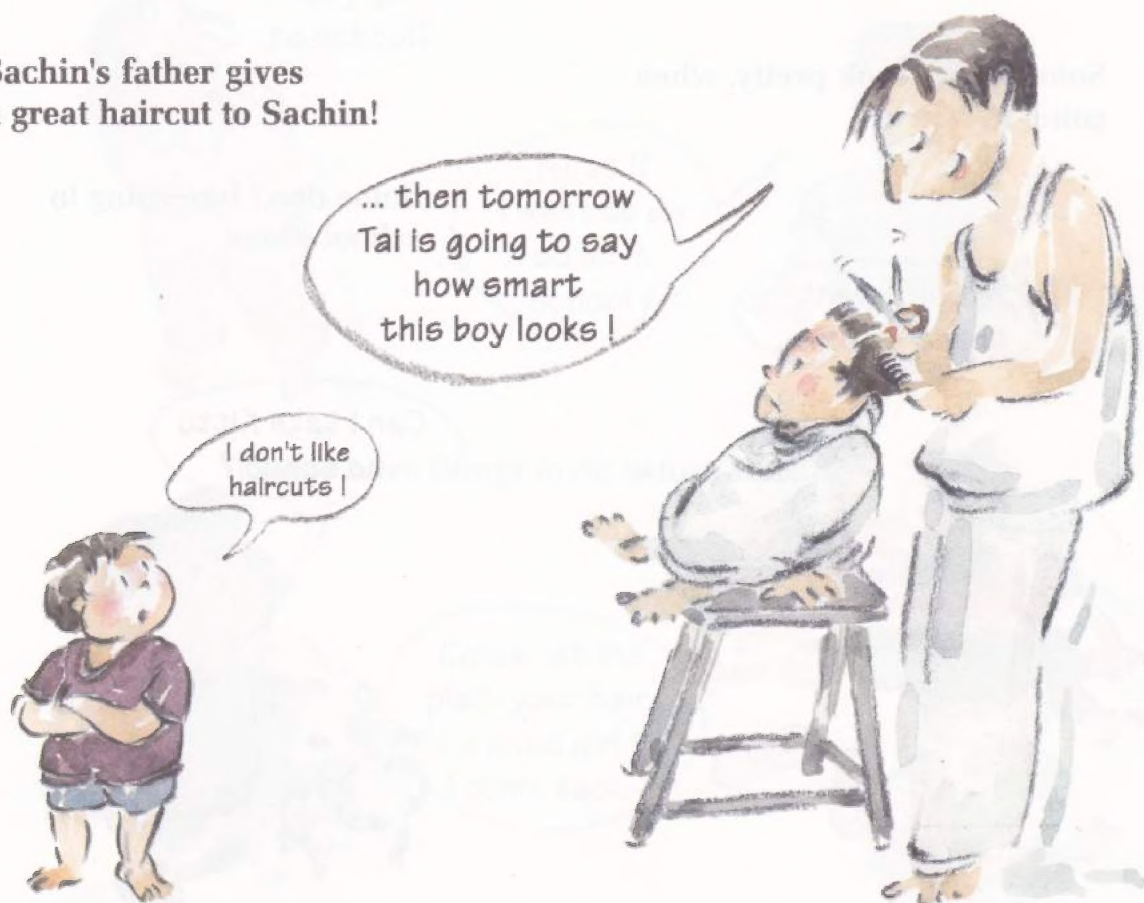
Avanti's Ai gets her
clothes ready.



At dinner, Netra's Ajji talks on and on...

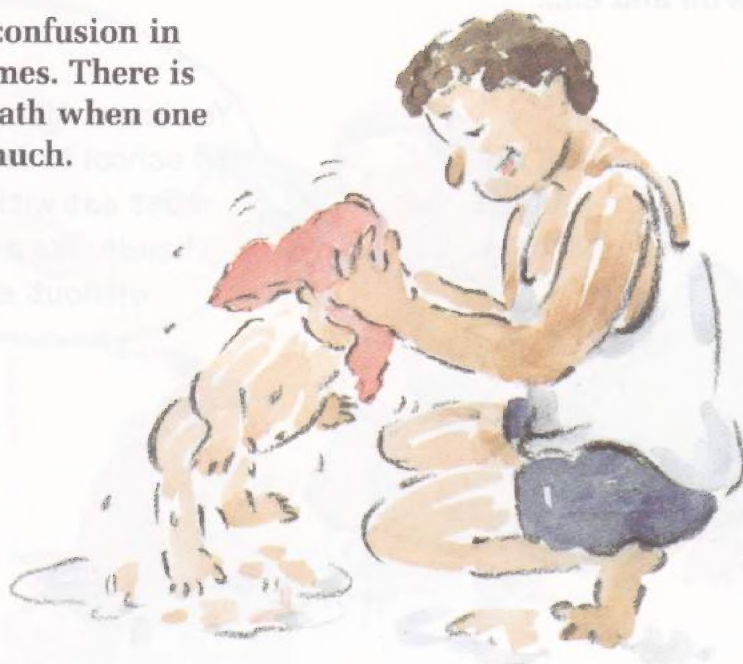


Sachin's father gives a great haircut to Sachin!



In the morning...

There is chaos and confusion in all the childrens' homes. There is no fun in having a bath when one has to hurry up so much.



Some like to look pretty, when going to school.



Some don't like going to school alone.



Some are not in a hurry.

Just wait...
my plane is flying high...!



I will go to school
only if Baba comes
to reach me.

Some have terms
and conditions.



Some have questions.

Why go
to school?



What if
I want to do
su su in
school?



Some have things to do before starting.

Come, let me
plait your hair.
Be a good girl till
I come back.



I don't like
being good!



On the way to school...

Sampada's Baba takes her on a bicycle!



I am not going to carry you.
You are a big girl now!
Everyone will laugh
at you in school!



**Manasi cannot understand
why Ai cannot carry her.**

Let them
laugh!



Vikram's Ai takes him
on the scooter.



Ketaki does not give up, trying to convince
Aiji, till she reaches school.



In school...

So many children with
their Ai, Baba, Ajji....
At the entrance
Tai welcomes the children.

You know,
when I was your age,
I too was in this school

Ameya Dhanagre,
on the first floor...

Namaste
Dhiren!

Say Namaste
to Tai!





On the first day
all the children get
to know their own Tais.



Janhavi's Tai is tall.



Shreyas' Tai is short.



Pankaj's Tai wears glasses!



**Swapnil's Tai sings and
dances so well!**



**Vrinda's Tai is
also called Vrinda.**



**Shweta's Tai has long hair.
One feels like pulling her plait.**

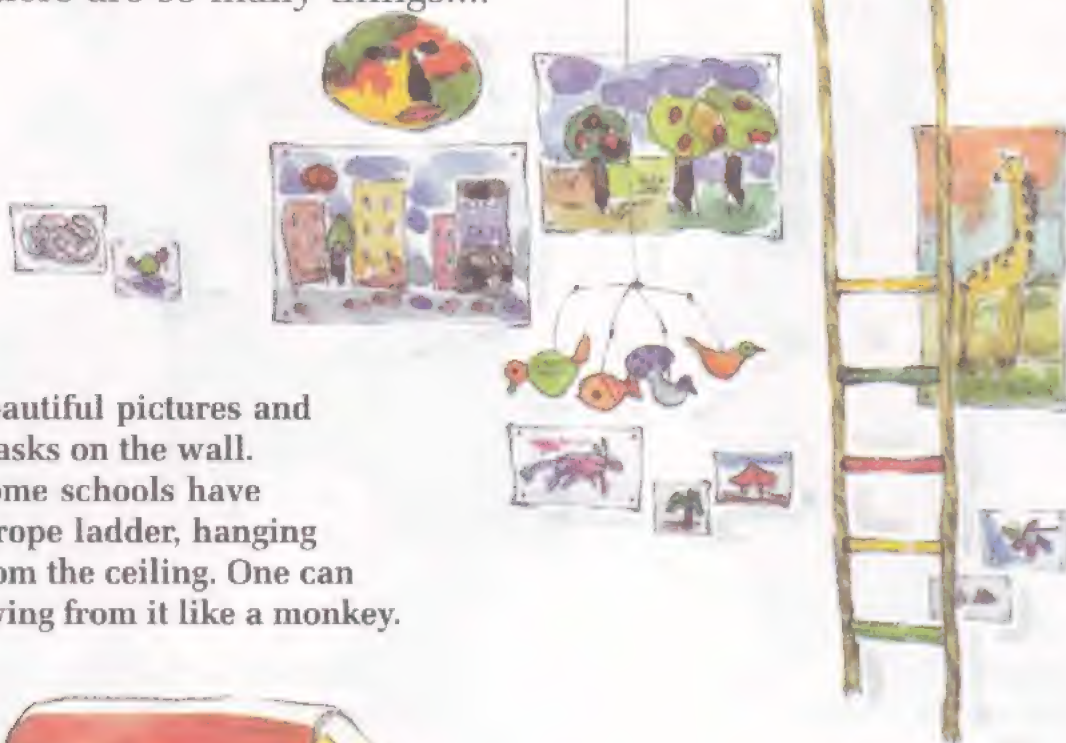


**Neha's Tai wears
pretty clothes
and flowers in her hair.**



**Akshay's Tai makes the
children laugh.**

Tai shows the children around the school.
There are so many things....



Beautiful pictures and
masks on the wall.
Some schools have
a rope ladder, hanging
from the ceiling. One can
swing from it like a monkey.



Another school has a pretty
Doll's House.



Some have
a tiny cradle.

There are colourful mats
for the children to sit on.
Sometimes there are
small tables too.





Even the hooks to hang the tiffin boxes, are pretty and colourful.



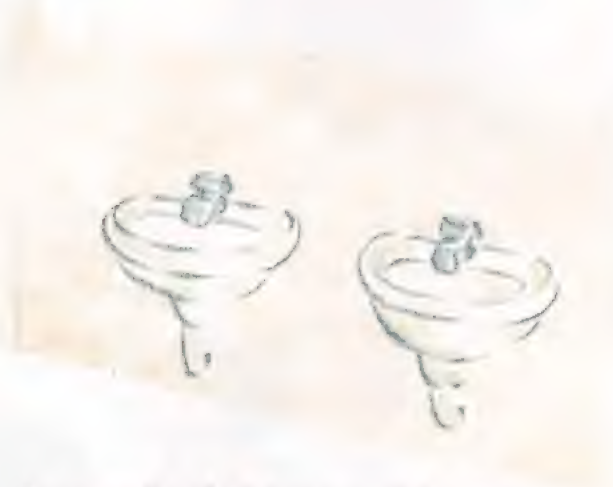
The shoes and chappals are to be kept on the stand outside the class.



Some schools have great big baskets full of toys.



So many picture books and story books on the shelves.



Some schools have small basins for washing hands.

School is over on the first day. The children are in a hurry to go home, but the Tais still have something more to say.



Everyone must wear the uniform on Tuesdays and Thursdays.



Remember, tomorrow is the day to bring chapattis and bhaji in the tiffin.



Reva, tomorrow
bring a handkerchief
to wipe your nose.



Angad, you have
forgotten to wear
your shoes.



Next day...



Some are not very clear
that they have to go
to school everyday.

But I have been to
school yesterday!

For some, the idea of going to the
same school everyday, seems odd.



Are we going to
another school
today?



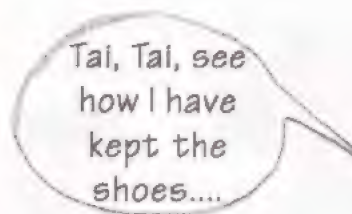
In school, some children are still a bit confused.



Some create such a hullabaloo with their howling!



Some remember correctly, what was said by Tai the day before, but others have to be reminded.



"Ruta, what did I say yesterday? Where does one do su su?"



In school one cannot always do what one wants, when one wants.



"Siddhi, read the book later."



"Nihar, where did you pick up that car? Keep it back in place...."



"Navani, eat the tiffin in the break. Not now..."



By and by everyone starts enjoying school.
Some are even eager to go to school.



One becomes friends with Tai.
Everything has to be told to Tai.
Everything has to be shown to Tai.



One gets new friends.

Actually, some like school, yet feel like crying, from time to time, without reason.



Today I have brought thalipeeth in my tiffin. I will give you some. OK?



**In school, some like some things.
Others like other things.**



**Some like to
exercise.**

**Some like others' tiffins
better than theirs.**



Some like to dance.



Some enjoy a good fight.



Some like listening to stories.





Some like to observe things from unusual places.



Some like to do everything with their friends.



Some like to colour everything around them while painting.



Some like to build blocks.



Some like to wait, for school to get over.



When school is over...

All the children rush around looking for Ai, Baba, who have come to pick them up, or else the Rikshawalekaka.




Kaka, Oh, Kaka,
please drop me to my
Atya today.




I don't want to come
with you. I want to go
in the Riksha like them....





Al, see,
this is Siddharth,
my friend....



Baba, see I got hurt,
still I didn't cry.

Sometimes those who
come to pick up are late.
Then the children who are
waiting get quite worried.



After reaching home...

Some don't like to speak much about school. They feel the grown-ups will not understand anything.



Some, however, like to tell everything.



Some like to talk anytime and all the time, about school.



Soon the uniforms are ready.
Each school has a different uniform.



There is so much work in school
and so much to study....

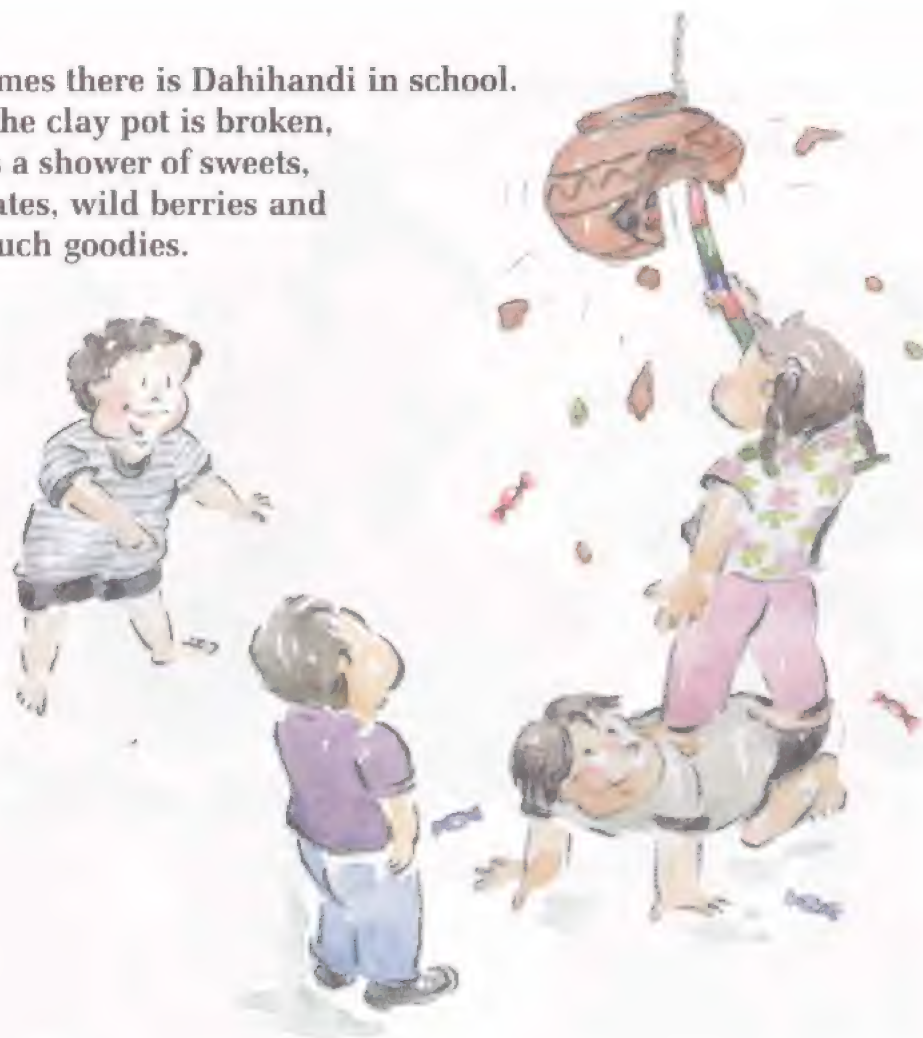


We have to make clay figures.



Tai performs with the puppets,
then we have to chat about it.

Sometimes there is Dahihandi in school.
When the clay pot is broken,
there is a shower of sweets,
chocolates, wild berries and
other such goodies.



Some schools have blackboards
all along the walls. Children can draw on them
with coloured chalks, anytime.

Some schools have small gardens, where children look after the plants.



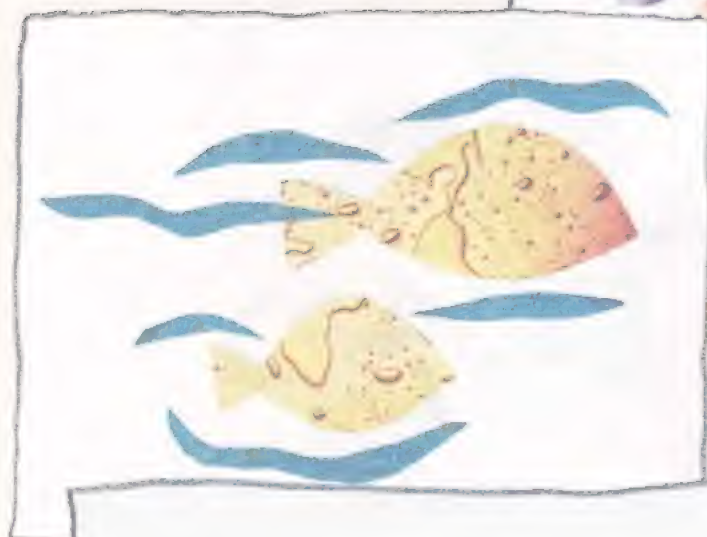
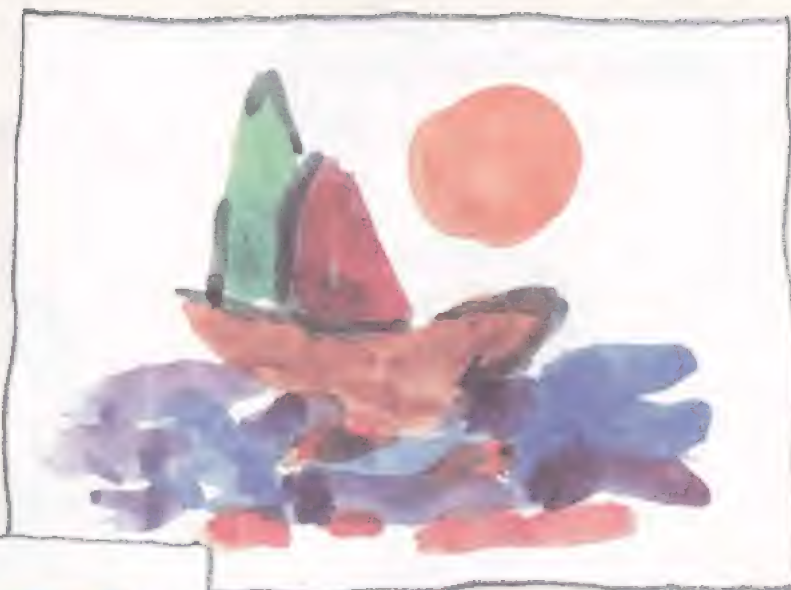
Sometimes there are special visitors for the children.



Sometimes some guests maybe a little scary....



When the children
work hard, Tai says,
"Well done!"
And then she puts up
all the lovely things
made by the children,
on the wall.





The children are very happy
when Tai takes the class on a picnic.



Sometimes by the riverside...

Sometimes to the potter...





Sometimes to the vegetable market...



Sometimes to see a toy exhibition...

Annual Gathering...

A new fun thing starts in school.



For the next few days the children only talk about the gathering.



On the day of the gathering there is a lot of rushing around, running around and excitement.



Some Tais put up garlands and pictures.

Some childrens' parents come to help.



All the Tais are calling each other and running after the children.

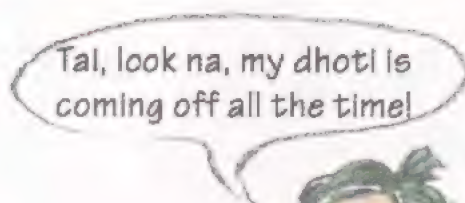


Deepatal, where are Shreeyans and Madhura from your class?

Samad,
your
shoes...



Some Tais don't know WHAT they are doing.



The children's programme starts.



Seeing the crowd in front, some start crying.



While one recites poetry in style,
the other cannot remember a thing.

Some perform
the fisherwomen's dance.



The farmer driving
bullocks is busy
hanging on to his
turban.



Everyone loves the show.



After the programme...



This is how everyone starts liking school.
Suddenly one day Tai says...

The holidays start
from tomorrow. Who
is going to do what
in the holidays?

?

After the holidays you will go to the
higher class! New class, new Tai...
great fun!

?





Our little ones take their first steps
within the safe environs of their homes,
utter their first words, try to understand
the little world around them
through wondering eyes
and searching hands.

Then one day, they enter the big world outside the
house holding on to our hands. They begin the
journey towards the creation of their own
independent world.

Our children start going to school.

How is this new world? A little fear, a little
pressure, a lot of excited enquiry... for the little
ones... and for us....



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